Food Security

1835. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new proposals that include reduction in wheat allocation to the States, allocation of coarse grains instead of wheat, reduction in quotas for both APL and BPL by 5 kg. etc., constitute on the right to food;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if countries were to be graded in terms of provision of food security to their citizens, India would rank alongwith Ethiopia at the lower end; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide food security to everyone in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no serious threat to food security in the country. As per information furnished by FAO, FAO publishes annually a document entitled the State of Food and Insecurity (SOFI) that includes a measure to compare food insecurity across almost all the countries of the world. This indicator refers to the proportion of the population that is malnourished and is estimated for a rolling three year average. The latest SOFI is for 2005 and the indicator refers to the period 2000-2002. The proportion of undernourished for India is given at 21 percent whereas Ethiopia had a figure of 46 percent.

Foodgrains to Tsunami hit States

1836. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI has increased the foodgrains supply to tsunami hit States and flood affected States during the last two years;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) On the recommendation of High Level Committee, constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs, the foodgrains to flood/tsunami hit States were increased and it was released by Food Corporation of India (FCI) during 2004-05 and 2005-06. As reported by Ministry of Rural Development, the State-wise details of foodgrains authorised under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise details of foodgrains authorised under special component of SGRY for flood/Tsunami affected areas

(In MT)

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	310000
2.	Assam	100000	
3.	Bihar	184000	
4.	Karnataka	0	72000
5.	Kerala	0	20000
6.	Meghalaya	3116	
7.	Mizoram	500	
8.	Orissa	0	200000
9.	Sikkim.	2000	
10.	Tamil Nadu	0	43968
11.	Andaman & Nicobar		7500
12.	Pondicherry		1500
	TOTAL	289616	654968

1. 10000 MTs, 20,000 MTs, 43,968 MTs, 7500 MTs and 1500 MTs of foodgrains were authorised under Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana for Tsunami affected areas of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar and Pondicherry respectively during the year 2005-06.

2. No foodgrains were authorised for Tsunami in 2004-2005.

BPL families deprived of ration items

1837. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people living Below Poverty Line are not getting the rationed items forcing them to purchase the same from the open market at high prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to check the black-marketing of ration items by fair price shop holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI and the State Governments are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue them ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast network of 4.86 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. The TPDS is supplemental in nature and does not cater to the full requirement of a household. The norms for allocation of foodgrains for all categories at present is @ 35 Kgs. per household, which is approx. 50% of the total requirement.

In such a vast network chances of irregularities can not be ruled out. However whenever a complaint is received by the Central Government, it is forwarded to the concerned State Government for investigations and necessary remedial action.

The improvement in the Public Distribution System in its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Besides notification of the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, necessary guidelines have been issued to all the States/UTs for the involvement of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, adopting citizen's charter and formation of Vigilance Committees at FPS level to State level to inspect and monitor the operation of TPDS.